

1-1-1

OCT 02 1986

M/S 525

Bruce Whitmarsh, Chairman  
Board of Franklin County Commissioners  
5409 W. Henry  
Pasco, Washington 99301

Dear Mr. Whitmarsh:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the results of a study conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at the Pasco Sanitary Landfill. The study does not show any immediate environmental or public health problem; it does, however, indicate that there is groundwater contamination which must be closely monitored and evaluated for long term effects.

The EPA study focused on sections of the landfill where herbicide wastes were previously disposed of by the Resource Recovery Corporation. EPA was concerned that the herbicides may have been moving off-site.

The EPA study results indicate that while herbicides are not moving off-site, other organic compounds have contaminated the groundwater and have the potential for moving off-site. EPA plans to sample drinking water wells that are downgradient and within one mile of the landfill to be certain there is no immediate public health threat.

The Benton-Franklin County Health District and the Department of Ecology are responsible for management and oversight of the landfill. The two agencies are reviewing the current operations at the landfill in order to reissue the landfill operating permit. More stringent operating parameters are likely to be placed in the permit.

Finally, you should be aware that in cases such as this, EPA routinely compares the potential health risks posed by this site to the risks at other sites. EPA uses a mathematical model to score and evaluate potential risks. Sites with high enough scores are considered for placement on EPA's National Priority List (NPL) of hazardous waste sites. Sites on the NPL are eligible for funds under the Superfund program to fully investigate pollutants at and around the site and to undertake cleanup actions if necessary.

USEPA SF



1452347

2

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. The enclosed fact sheets more fully describe the EPA study. If you have further questions, please contact me or Lori Cohen of my staff at (206) 442-2712.

Sincerely,

Robert G. Courson, Chief  
Superfund Branch

Enclosures

cc: C.J. Rabideau            Stan Vendetti  
Flora Goldstein        Bob Boothe  
Bob Kievit            Bruce Gilkeson  
Gary Karndfski        Larry Dietrich

L.COHEN LK 9/16/86 7643P

CONCURRENCES							
SYMBOL							
SURNAME	COHEN	EVERTS	COURSON	Millan			
DATE							